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I Hated Physics!

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*In our world of automation
no woman needs be to be a
"Knob Turner."*

I Hated Physics!

I KNEW I hated physics.

When I found I had to take Physics 106 as part of my home economics core curriculum, I wasted no time in letting Dr. Lester T. Earls, our lecturer, know this. I decided to have a frank talk with him immediately.

He did seem very understanding, this quiet, fatherly man sitting across from me with elbows spread-eagled, fingers of both hands touching to form a tent. And I knew he was absolutely right when he said that physics opened to us an entirely new area of life which we might not have another chance to explore.

Dr. Earls kept trying to discover why I hated physics. Suddenly he made me realize that because I had had no actual contact with the subject previously, my feelings must stem from indirect information from classmates. He must have known how we all discuss classes ahead of time. Perhaps his two daughters, Ellen and Loraine, told him that upper classmen love to scare us about the math problems in physics.

The quarter progressed...and I soon found myself looking forward to Dr. Earls' lectures. I never knew who might be blasted out of her seat by the automobile horn he had rigged beneath. And I don't believe the sight of an instructor being raised into the air on a piston is exactly the usual for classes at Iowa State. Dr. Earls, however, believes the fundamental concepts of physics can be illustrated in a realistic and enjoyable manner.

He wrote the text used in 106, A Brief Course in Physics for Students of Home Economics. His previous two years of experience with the course

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by

Diane Rasmussen

*Technical Journalism
Sophomore*



Dr. Earls climbs on top
an 84 lb weight. Piston
working against atmos-
pheric pressure lifts both
himself and the weight.

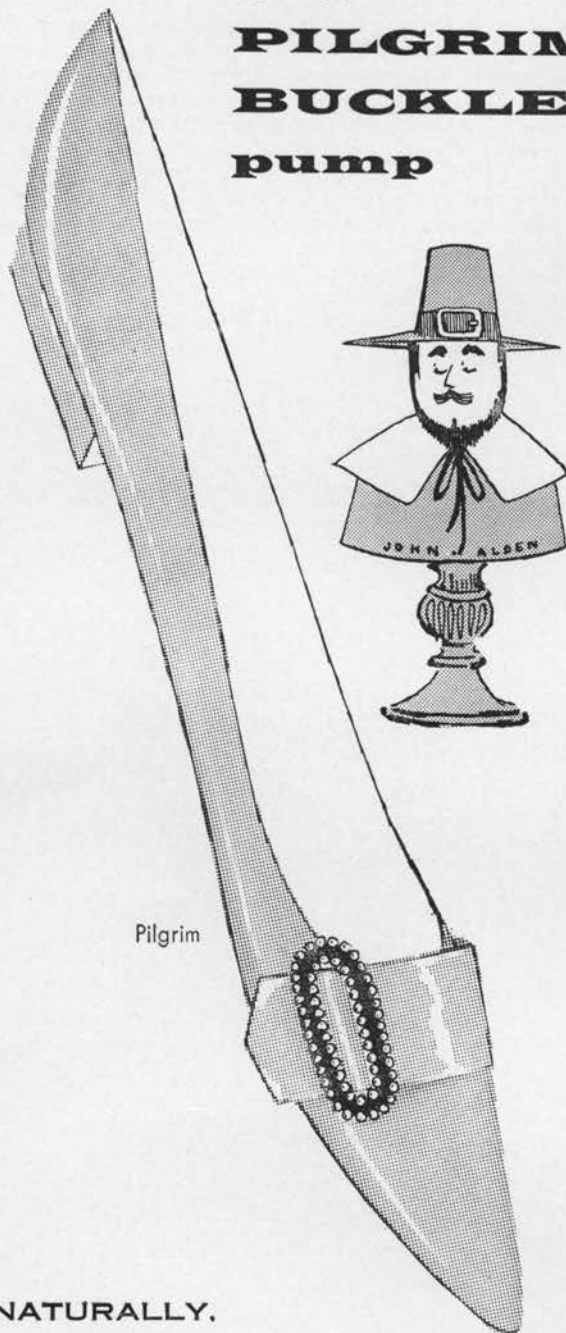


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Physics (Continued from Page 13)

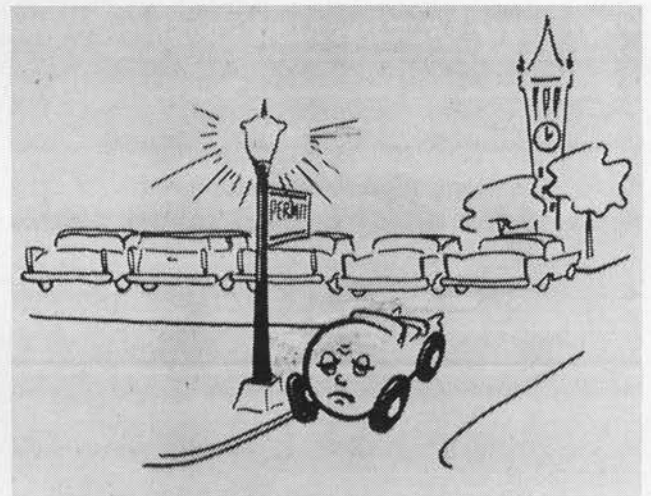
and five years of using the material in its preliminary form, helped him to write a book which "brings physics into the realm of common sense and makes the subject as useful as possible to his students of home economics." His keen sense of humor prompted him to scatter throughout the book such items as the Q (queer) temperature scale and the SQ (still queerer) scale. He tosses out candy bars in class to students who get the highest grades in some tests, and he likes to give the student who has improved the most during the quarter a free ride in his private airplane.

These modern teaching methods of Dr. Earls were formed during graduate work at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Michigan, plus eight years of teaching before arrival at Iowa State.

"I would like to become friends with my students as individuals," says Dr. Earls. Since his lectures often are presented to more than 200 coeds at one time, this is often impossible. But he did give us a chance to express our feelings about the course. Our unsigned, written criticisms of the course were welcomed.

So, here I am finished with Physics 106.

While there is a big gap between principles of physics, and repairing a refrigerator, I know I'm as smart as the machines which I will use in homemaking. By golly, I will *not* become a knobturner who yells for a mechanic everytime my monsters refuse my command to work.



"And I sacrificed my own little garage at home for this—college life!"

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